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Laverl Kennedy Writes About Alsace Conditions 3-2-1945

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Laverl Kennedy Writes About ^{Mar. 21} ¹⁹⁴⁵ Alsace Conditions

**Local Soldier Tells About People
in This Border Province Between
France and Germany**

Private First Class LaVerl Kennedy writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar F. Kennedy of Lis, from Alsace, France, on the French-German border:

"Today it was nine degrees above zero but the weather is pretty nice. We had a big snow but some of it melted away this afternoon. Probably it will last a week or more because it is sure deep out in the fields. We have been shooting a few rabbits and quail as we drive along the roads. So far, I have killed two quail and crippled one. They are very hard to hit with my .45 caliber sub-machine gun.

"We give all of them to civilians because the Army furnishes our eats. The people are sure glad to get them and sometimes they have us come in for meals. So far I haven't gone because I know how short they are for food. Some of the boys have gone and they say they set up a fine meal. They soak the meat in wine and then fry it. I guess it is really swell that way.

Speak German

"Most of the people treat us swell although all of them speak German. Some of them talk English but very few speak any French. That seems pretty funny, but they don't know what country they belong to.

"Tonight an old farmer is up in our room talking to one of our boys who can speak German. They are really going to town but I don't hardly know what they are talking about. I can understand most of it by picking out parts along the conversation. When he asks me questions I can't understand what he wants but we get along swell. He was telling about Hitler's election.

"They had a box filled so they could tell how everyone voted. I guess the ones who voted against him probably were killed or placed in prison camps. His son is in the German army but they forced him to go. Of course, they don't hear from him but he is supposed to be on the Russian front. Most of the boys have been gone for more than a year and no word has come back to them of their whereabouts.

Enclosed Souvenir

"I got a little souvenir that I will clip on this paper. I traded two cigarettes for it. For a little candy you can get all kinds of souvenirs although they never get any of my candy. Sometimes we give them chewing gum or rations but this candy is pretty scarce. The kids say Germans have no chocolate. That seems pretty funny to us because we get a small bar everyday. I am trying to get a German flag but no success as yet. They shouldn't be hard to get before very long if we get into the home land.

"One of our units are located in a scissors factory. I got one pair so far but hope to get more. They are really nice and all sizes. I will send some home in the box I am collecting, if possible. I never saw so many in all my life and the building is very modern. They have a lot of stainless steel inside for trimming, especially the bannisters of the starways.

"I must close for tonight and go to bed. This little pin was given every time the Germans took a pig or something of the people."

The souvenir referred to by Private Kennedy was a small round metal button bearing the swastika in the center and the words "Opferring Elsass," around it.